

LEAF SPOT OF CAHNA LILY

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During the summer months, and especially after long periods of rainfall, Canna plants may suffer from a bacterial leaf spot disease caused by *Xanthomonas cannae* (Bryan) Savulescu. The leaf spots begin as water-soaked areas between the lateral veins and gradually turn yellow. Often a light green, semi-transparent area extends beyond the yellow tissue at the end of the leaf spot (Fig. 1A). The size of the lesions vary from less than one inch to several inches in length, sometimes extending over the entire width of the leaf blade from the midrib to the leaf margin. Several parallel lesions may grow together and form large, irregular chlorotic areas of affected tissue. Older spots often develop brown necrotic leaf tissue in the center and along the leaf margin (Fig. 1B).

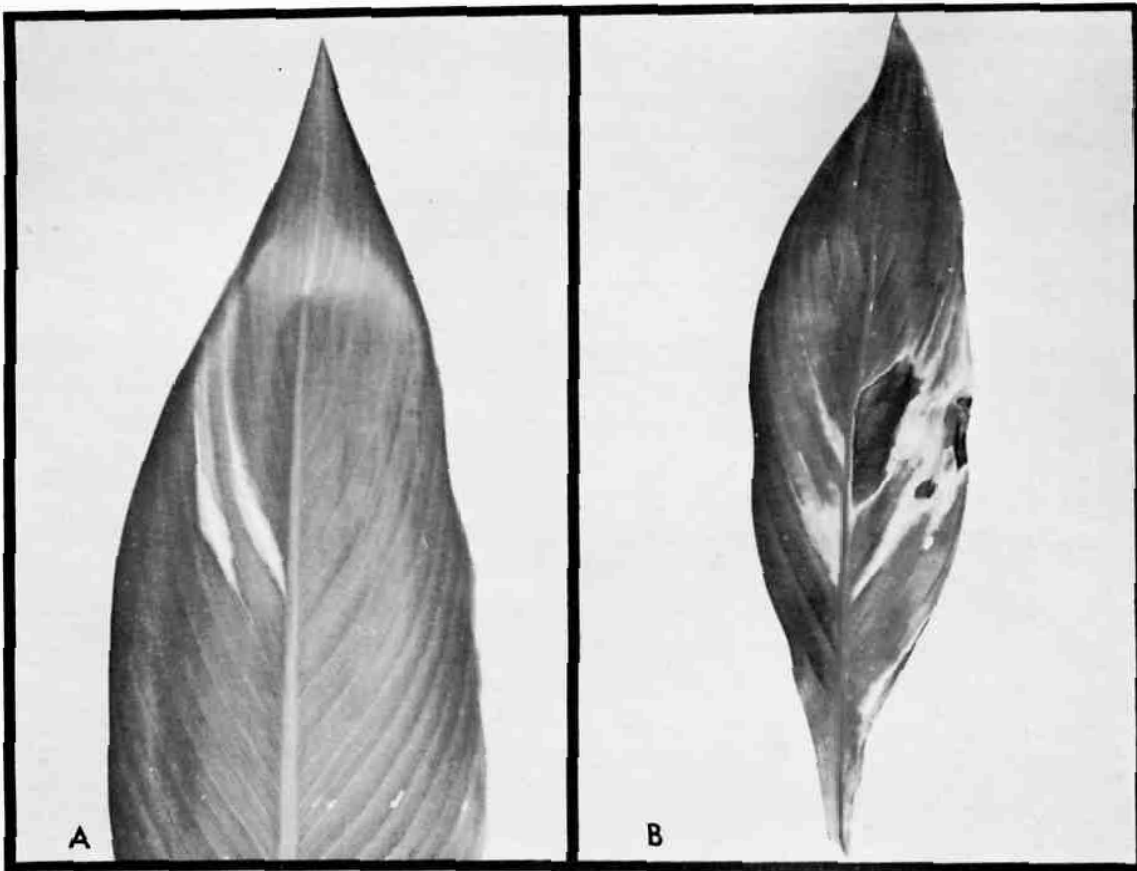


Fig. 1. Canna leaf showing young (A) and old (B) necrotic lesions.

The disease was first observed by Bryan (1) in Washington, D.C. and described as bacterial bud rot. Bryan chose this name because it was observed that the bacteria from the leaf blade infections passed through the petiole and into the bud where they caused a bud rot.

This bud rot has not been found in Florida and the leaf spotting is the only symptom which characterizes the disease. For this reason the name leaf spot is preferred over bud rot.

Control measures are hardly necessary because the disease is seldom serious. However, in dense stands the disease could spread rapidly, especially during rainy periods. Thinning out the stalks and removing the infected leaves are necessary control measures to keep Canna lilies reasonably healthy.

Literature Cited

1. Bryan, Mary K. 1921. A bacterial budrot of cannas. J. Agr. Res. 21:143-152.